

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXIX NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2021

EBARC Meetings

January 8, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

To Be Announced

Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, at rajama@pacbell.net.

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The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Feb. issue: Tues., Jan. 26th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net

January 8th EBARC Meeting

The January 8th General EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email and be posted on ebarc.org. We hope you join us! Because of the pandemic, future meetings through March 2021 will also be held via Zoom.

New Year's Resolutions?

- Take advantage of HRO's gift! If you attended EBARC's December's general Zoom meeting, you (using your callsign) have a 10% off discount at Ham Radio Outlet for a single item purchased after December 25, 2020. Also, starting this month, see their new ad on the last page of *The Blown Fuse*!
- If you haven't yet renewed EBARC for 2021, you can use the nifty self-addressed-stamped-envelope that came with ballots for your check and roster info.
- If you have changed your address, phones, email, callsign, or license class, please tell Sharon (aa6xz@earthlink.net).

- If you recently joined ARRL, please also tell Sharon. If you haven't joined yet, please do it, because EBARC is an affiliated club.
- Didja remember to check when your ham ticket expires? You can renew at the FCC website 3 months ahead or (gasp) during your 2-year post-expiration grace period.
- Check out the 2021 officer list and view the refreshed list of (some) nets on the next-to-last page of *The Blown Fuse*.

Treasurer's Report November 2020

Maria Hauger, KI6ENT, Treasurer

NOVEMBER GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$8,956.85

Income:

New Member: NI6A.....\$30.00
Individual Renewals:990.00
Family Renewals:.....245.00
Donations with dues.....85.00
Satellite Equipment Sales 1,261.36
Earned Interest0.02
Total General Income:\$2,611.38

Disbursements:

Ballot / Renewal Mailing.....\$96.18
Total General Disbursements\$96.18

Ending Balance.....\$11,472.05
(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)
(portion as a US Bank CD... \$5,000.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships

NOVEMBER PAYPAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance\$96.80
Ending Balance.....\$96.80

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

Some EBARC History

Don Simon, N16A

We miss those times when EBARC had world class stations at the Red Cross on MacDonald Ave and the Salvation Army on San Pablo, antennas installed at Brookside hospital, Doctor's hospital, the Alameda County Blood Bank, and the Salvation Army Canteen. We even installed and maintained antennas at the Berkeley Red Cross and the Oakland Red Cross.

So many fine and dedicated hams; N6JNK Doug, WD6DLR Don, Dave N6DRT, Carl KA6OLK, Muriel Secretary, Ed K6AGD, Lew WA6JSO, Rachel KB6LHR, Joe W6DOB, Leo WA6ZFY, John WD6GGC, Graeme W6JRZ, Woody WB6LFW, Will AA6VL, Kit KB6JZM, Don N6EEG (now NN6RF), Sam WD6FTM, David KI6WF, Phil WA6ODB, Bob WB6VEX, Bob N6SPY, Robby N6MNL, Peter KB6WC, Henry KK6PH, and Sharon AA6XZ. What a dynamic crew all working together on specific aspects to make EBARC the Pacific Division's Club of the Year Award 3 years in a row in the late eighties when Rod W6ROD was Pacific Division Director. At that time W6CUS-1 was one of the original stations approved for temporary authorization (STA) for unattended HF packet radio message forwarding operations under FCC Letter of Authorization 7230-J with its high powered station and 3-element Yagi at the Richmond Red Cross operating as a gateway station on 2 meters and on the packet backbone on 1.25 meters. We sure miss those days when EBARC was pushing the envelope. Good to know that some of those folks are still active, and I am looking forward to catching up in 2021.

2020 Field Day Results

Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB

Club overall score reported to ARRL: 3574
Overall QSO's Leader: Ken KO6NO 195
Overall Points Leader: Howdy KE6BEE 758

2nd QSO's: Martin W6MRR 188
3rd QSO's: Mathison KJ6DZB 156
4th QSO's: Howdy KE6BEE 142
5th QSO's Peter W6DEL
6th QSO's Mark KD6MZC
Honorable Mention: Katie, Maria, Craig, Todd, Jay, Chris, Joe, Ron.

Operator	Score QSO's / Points
Ken KO6NO	195 / 440
Martin W6MRR	188 / 136
Mathison KJ6DZB	156 / 624
Howdy KE6BEE	142 / 758
Peter W6DEL	103 / 528
Robin N6RLS	54 / 196
Mark KD6MZC	53 / 262

ARRL Pacific Division Meeting

(summary by Todd Teachout)

This meeting was held virtually on December 12. The meeting was led by Kristen McIntyre, new Pacific Division Director, given the unexpected passing of Jim Tiemstra. Turnout was approximately 250 people as compared to approximately 60 people who attended the 2019 Meeting in Livermore. I noticed four EBARC members (Mathison Ott, Ron Smith, Peter Hoffman and myself).

Topics that were raised:

1) State of the ARRL. Finances are in good shape. The new CEO, David Minster, is working to improve operations at headquarters. There is a desire to advance projects such as a) website update, b) expand the lifelong learning initiatives recently started, and c) update the computer systems being used to process club events and activities, especially processing contest results. The goal is to improve services to the membership. Minster is expected to leverage the talent in the ARRL

who reside around the country and world, not just near headquarters in Connecticut.

2) Growth: There is a need to attract younger, more diverse people into the ARRL and local radio clubs to keep the hobby growing and to keep it relevant to national interests. Maintaining a reserve technical talent pool is a big reason why amateur radio remains relevant. Suggestions for attracting new people include: a) reaching out and coordinating with high school and college STEM instructors to form clubs or otherwise encourage students to get an amateur radio license; b) providing post-license activities to train new licensees on how/when to operate; c) staffing booths at conferences/conventions; d) working with religious organizations and other non-profits; and e) participating with other hobby organizations (airplanes, boats, maker fairs, hobby model-making remote control flight/drones/cars/boats, astronomy groups, photography groups, computer “(good) hacking” conventions. ARRL demographic data suggest that there is no obvious explanation describing how youth find and get into amateur radio, lately. Presumably a family member, friend or neighbor introduces them and they are attracted by what they see. There has been a small spike of new members in their 30s who use radio to augment and aid their off-roading activities or are curious about emergency communications. Many younger people are attracted to the technical aspects of the hobby more so than the communications part. Ideas welcome for attracting more people.

3) Spectrum: ARRL is filing documents to have the FCC reconsider its action to order amateurs to vacate 3.3-3.5 MHz. ARRL is continuing its effort to defend the use of the 5 GHz band for hams. Of the recently vacated spectrum, some is expected to be used for cell phone 5G, but a lot is still undefined. It is believed to have been speculatively reserved for future autonomous vehicle use. Consider donating to the Spectrum Defense Fund. A point was made that the efforts to push hams

off some spectrum bands is not just from US business interests. It is a worldwide push.

4) Fees: The FCC is considering a proposal to increase fees to amateur license holders. An effort is being made to challenge the proposal. This proposal was made to conform to a law passed to compel agencies, such as the FCC, to collect fees to offset their operating costs. That law did not explicitly address non-commercial users. The FCC proposal affecting amateurs is but a part of a larger effort to increase revenue into the FCC. The best argument against the fee change appears to be that amateur radio is a non-commercial use. Law compelling the FCC fee hikes was intended to be applied to commercial interests. Other federal regulations exempt fees from being collected for non-commercial uses.

4) EmComm: The ARRL has a new Emergency Communications Coordinator. A point was made that Amateur Radio Operators in the EmComm space are being replaced by systems that work “well enough.” Public safety professionals, including large non-profits/NGOs (e.g. Red Cross), are altering programs. They are increasingly in need of amateurs with certification credentials. Amateurs who lack the training certifications increasingly are being ignored. Part of an improved amateur EmComm service is to have relationships (a.k.a. networking) between key public safety staff and those key amateur radio club members. It was suggested that amateurs need to ask the professionals if they can be of help and then if so, how. While it is essential to know how to operate radio devices, it is also essential to know how to coordinate with the professional responders. Coordinating with professionals is not perfect though. Many counties’ EmComm staff don’t coordinate, like they could and should, with nearby counties/state/federal officials, until a disaster happens that finds them ill prepared. ARRL is expected to revise guidance material so that coordination between amateurs and professionals improves and is uniform and

consistent. It is hoped that ARES guidance documents get revised.

5) Regulation: Some challenges are coming from Congress because there are fewer, if any, licensed hams in Congress as elected officials. Challenges at the FCC are happening as the staff is increasingly lawyers and not engineers. Regulatory lawyers don't look at how spectrum is being used. They get told. Amateurs have to demonstrate by use that they are the spectrum allocated to them. At the moment the message is not very loud to some at the FCC. So threats will continue.

Kristen reported that there will be an ARRL board meeting in the first or second week of January. If you have constructive ideas and suggestions you are encouraged to share your thoughts with her at k6wx@arrl.org.

The meeting lasted two hours. See it on:
<https://youtu.be/mPcC8Gqlbj4>

December 2020 General Minutes

Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Secretary

The EBARC general meeting was held December 11, 2020, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application as a result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. 26 people attended. Katie was the Zoom control. President Jay called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Maria reported the club income this month includes revenue from dues, mostly renewals, donations, and interest. Expenses for this month includes costs for club ballot and renewal mailing. Net Income (income minus expense) \$2,515.20. Ending balance is \$11,472.05.

Secretary: Acting Secretary Todd reported that November general meeting minutes were

published in the December *Blown Fuse*. Call for corrections. None offered. Recommended that the group approve the minutes. Motion to approve by Todd. 2nd by Mathison. Vote, minutes approved by affirmation.

3rd VP: No new members last month. Sharon reported that she prepared and issued the December *Blown Fuse*. Deadline for next issue is December 22, articles needed. No VE test sessions in Oakland for January or April 2021 due to pandemic restrictions. 2021 EBARC officer election ballots were mailed to members with membership renewal forms. We have 50 2021 members, so far.

1st VP: Katie reported that the holiday program will begin in a few minutes. January program depends on the status of the current Bay Area pandemic restrictions.

President: Jay thanked the board members their service in 2020. He thanked everyone for their faith and support for his efforts. He hoped that we can make some headway in 2021 on several issues facing the club. Some soul searching will occur.

He reported that a steering committee has been formed to guide the future direction of club activities. He named Mark Gilligan and Mathison Ott as leading members, at the moment. Others interested in helping can contact Jay, Mark, or Mathison to participate. Ideas and thoughts provided previously to the Storage and Field Day Committees are expected to be considered further. A survey of members is being considered. A report of some type (progress or final with findings and recommendations) is expected to be made in February.

Mathison indicated that the committee is reviewing Field Day past practices and considering whether to continue them. The committee is reviewing the club equipment and the entire inventory to determine what items should be kept, what items to be let go, and what new gear might be needed.

Mark indicated the committee recognizes the club's basic activities (Field Day and meeting presentations) and will document that. The committee members will consider the diversity of interests, skills, and energy levels of the membership. Possible consideration for future direction: return to event services; fixed station/repeater site; activities (e.g. balloon launches, conventions, fox-hunting, non-field day contests, outreach/coordination with maker/boating/flying groups).

Jay reported that the Executive Committee approved "comping" Chris Harwood's 2021 dues (and for his children, if eligible), as thanks for providing storage space for the club equipment.

Member at Large: Mathison Ott reported highlights of Field Day. The club earned 3574 points. He noted the Ken Fowler took top honors for the number of contacts made (195 on SSB). He reported results of others, too. A few results were accidentally omitted. Field Day awards will be distributed on December 12, 2020

2021 Officer Elections: Elections Committee Chair, Ron Smith reported that the Committee (Ron Smith, "DJ" djovida, and Maria Hauger) met on 12/10/2020 at Ron's office. 48 ballots were received. Majority votes were cast for:
Jay Sparks, President
Katie Carney, 1st VP, Programs
Mathison Ott, 2nd VP, Hospitality
Sharon Primbsch, 3rd VP, Membership, *Blown Fuse* Editor, VE activities
Audrey Nieman, Treasurer
Todd Teachout, Secretary

Outgoing Treasurer Maria thanked everyone for their support over the past two years of her service. She indicated that she would continue her duties through December and help as much as needed to assure a smooth transition for newly the arriving Treasurer. Audrey should be able to hit the ground running.

Program: After a brief break, 1st VP Katie Carney kicked off the December Holiday Special. She recited a ham-centric version of "The Night before Christmas," copyrighted in 2014 by Peter Strauss, KO6R.

She opened up discussions with the question, "What do you want (wish for) for 2021?" Most answers were related to no COVID, and for better health!

Katie announced that every person who attended the 12/11/2020 EBARC general meeting qualifies for a 10% off discount at Ham Radio Outlet for purchases made after December 25, 2020. Mention that you attended the December 2020 EBARC Holiday Meeting to get the discount for one item purchased.

Announcements:

Rick Taft reported that on 12/13 the Geminid meteor shower peak will occur. Also, 12/21 will be the peak time to see a convergence of Saturn and Jupiter in the sky. The planets will be visible in the west sky after sunset, about 15 degrees above the horizon.

ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 12, 2020 for CQ, phone.

Kids Day, January 4, 2021, 1800 UTC to 2359 UTC, 10m 12m 15m 17m 20m 40m 80m. See ARRL website for more info.

Ron Smith has some old gear he wants to get rid of. Some of it works, some doesn't. Chris to coordinate with Ron.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Next meeting January 8, 2021.

If H_2O is water and H_2O_2 is hydrogen peroxide, what is H_2O_4 ? Drinking!

If H_2O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice? H_2O cubed!

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events."
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio test sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther

King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. Because of COVID, there are tentative plans for 4th Sundays in Jul and Oct in 2021. The fee is \$15. Candidates must preregister at davidotey@comcast.net or call 510-741-8227.

- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb. CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrl.net, (415) 215-6658, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office's Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, davidnielson@yahoo.com

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2021 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President..... 384-4233
 Katie Carney, KN6APB, 1st VP - Program Chair 326-3886
 Mathison Ott, KJ6DZB, 2nd VP – Hospitality / Field Day Chair 701-0234
 Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3rd VP - Membership / *Blown Fuse* Editor..... 741-8227
 Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, Secretary 799-6051
 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair..... 682-7938

2021 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee / Webmaster; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR 202-262-6345
 Club Station Manager; Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU..... 385-4044
 Education; Ken Fowler, KO6NO..... 222-0830

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement)	Tue*	1900 (PL 82.5+)	444.275
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
"QRM Net"	Tue	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 (PL 107.2-)	145.490
UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net	1 st Wed	1200 simplex	145.430
UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net	Wed	1900 (PL 103.5+)	442.275
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thu	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thu	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0900 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0915 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net	Sat	0930 (PL 82.5+)	444.275

ACS West CoCoCo: "DJ" djovida, KJ6DJ, kj6dj@arrl.net, (415) 215-6658.*
 Frequencies: #1=145.110, #2=147.570s.



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• 7W Output Power Plus New Antenna Provides 1.5 Times More Coverage • More Audio, 1500 mW Audio Output • IP54 & MIL-STD 810G-Rugged Design Against Dust & Water • 19 Hours of Long Lasting Battery Life • 200 Memory Channels, 1 Call Channel & 6 Scan Edges



IC-7610 | HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver

• Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously



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IC-2300H | VHF FM Transceiver

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This device has not been approved by the F.C.C.



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